

R E M A R K S

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8-14 are pending in this application. Support for the changes to claim 1 is found in the embodiment shown in Figure 2 as well as in the description of the present specification. The changes to claim 5 merely place this claim into appropriate form for consideration by the Examiner. New claims 12-14 constitute original claims 3, 6 and 7 rewritten in independent form.

Submission of Priority Documents

Submitted with this Reply are two Priority Documents filed in connection with the present application. It is requested that the official records in the U.S.P.T.O. recognize this submission and completion of the requirements for appropriately claiming priority under 35 U.S.C. 119.

Removal of Objections to Drawings, Title, Specification and Claim 5

The drawings of Figures 10A-10C have been objected to as failing to be labeled "Prior Art". The title of the specification has been objected to as failing to be descriptive. Claim 5 has been objected to as being in improper form.

With regard to the drawings, it is noted that appropriate formal drawings for Figures 10A-10C labeled as "Conventional Art"

consistent with the specification are submitted herewith. Regarding the title of the present application, the title has been amended in accordance with the suggestions at page 3 of the Office Action dated June 25, 2003. Regarding claim 5, claim 5 has been amended so as to conform with applicable U.S.P.T.O requirements.

#### Traversal of Restriction and Election Requirements

Applicants respectfully maintain a traversal of the Restriction and Election Requirements based on essentially the same reasons stated in the Reply filed April 21, 2003. In addition to those reasons, which are incorporated herein, it is further submitted with regard to the Election Requirement that there has been no objective evidence identified, which indicates that any "serious burden" would be placed on the Examiner to at least examine all of the species encompassed by the elected claims of Group I (i.e., claims 1-8). Consequently, it is again requested that the Restriction and Election Requirements be withdrawn.

#### Allowable Claims

Claims 3, 6 and 7 were indicated to be allowable and were merely objected to as depending upon rejected base claims. Claims 3, 6 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form as new

claims 12-14. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 12-14 have been placed into condition for allowance. It is further submitted that the other remaining claims of this application are also in allowable form based on the following comments.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Mechanics of Pneumatic Tires* (editor Samuel K. Clark, USDOT, Washington D.C., August 1981, page 874) in view of JP '182 (Japanese Patent Application No. 11-36182). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Distinctions between Present Invention and Cited Documents

JP '182 discloses a steel cord having a core of 12 filaments and a sheath of 11-14 filaments arranged around the core, wherein the core filaments are divided into two bundles, one bundle of 3 filaments and another bundle of 9 filaments. JP '182 discloses that the core filaments are all twisted together at the same time, such as one bundle.

JP '182 fails to disclose or suggest the tire of the present invention, wherein torsion is applied to each filament bundle individually in order to form a "strand", and the strands then twisted together to produce the core, wherein the twisting occurs after or at the same time that the torsion is applied. Consequently, JP '182 fails to recognize the advantages associated with the present invention, such as advantageously improved fatigue resistance as evidenced by the comparative test results and described in the present specification. Therefore, significant patentable distinctions exist between the present invention and JP '182.

*Mechanics of Pneumatic Tires* is a general reference, which fails to make up for the significant deficiencies of JP '182 as described above.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present claims patentably define over the cited documents, such that the above-noted rejection should be withdrawn and the present application be placed into condition for allowance.

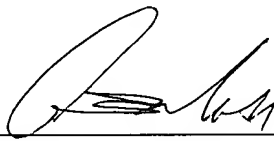
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By   
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Attachments: Corrected Formal Drawings